

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A thermal fixing device comprising:

a fixing member disposed to be in contact with a fixation medium;

a pressuring member disposed to face the fixing member and configured to press the fixation medium against the fixing member;

a conveying unit configured to convey the fixation medium that has passed through between the fixing member and the pressuring member; and

a guide member configured to guide the fixation medium to the conveyance position;

wherein the conveyance unit comprises,

a first conveyance roller configured to convey the fixation medium, and configured to be in contact with the fixation medium on a surface that is opposite to a surface where the fixing roller contacts with at a position that is downstream of the fixing roller with respect to a conveyance direction of the fixation medium and is upstream of a conveyance position where the conveyance unit conveys the fixation medium; and

a plurality of second conveyance rollers disposed along the conveyance direction of the fixation medium, and each disposed to face the first conveyance roller to support and convey the fixation medium; and

wherein the guide member is disposed to face the first conveyance roller, and

a first (downstream) end portion of the guide member is disposed on a line that passes a contact portion between the first conveyance roller and an upstream side second conveyance roller and a second (upstream) end portion of the guide member, The thermal

~~fixing device as claimed in claim 1~~, wherein the pressuring member comprises a plurality of the pressuring members disposed along the conveyance direction of the fixation medium.

5. (Currently Amended) The thermal fixing device as claimed in ~~claim 1~~, claim 4, wherein a part of the first conveyance roller is disposed on a line connecting the conveyance position and a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member.

6. (Currently Amended) The thermal fixing device as claimed in ~~claim 1~~, claim 4, wherein the guide member is disposed along a direction of a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member.

7-9. (Canceled).

10. (Currently Amended) The thermal fixing device as claimed in ~~claim 1~~, claim 4, wherein a contact portion of the first conveyance roller where the first conveyance roller contacts the fixation medium is made of elastic material, and

a contact portion of the guide member where the guide member contacts the fixation medium is made of metal material.

11. (Currently Amended) The thermal fixing device as claimed in ~~claim 3~~, claim 4, wherein a part of the first conveyance roller is disposed on a line connecting the conveyance position and a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member.

12. (Original) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the pressuring member comprises a plurality of the pressuring members disposed along the conveyance direction of the fixation medium, and

wherein the line connecting the conveyance position and the contact portion corresponds to a line connecting a portion where the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream contacts the fixing member and a portion where the first conveyance roller contacts to the second conveyance roller that is disposed the most upstream.

13. (Original) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 12, wherein the guide member is disposed along a direction of a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member, and

wherein the line that intersects with the tangential line corresponds to a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream.

14. (Original) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the guide member is disposed along a direction of a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member, and

wherein the line that intersects with the tangential line corresponds to a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream.

15. (Original) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the fixing member comprises a fixing roller, and

wherein the guide member is disposed away by not less than 5 mm downstream along a surface of the fixing roller from a contact portion where the fixing roller contacts the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream, and is disposed along a line connecting a rotation center of the fixing roller and one end of the guide member which is facing the fixing roller.

16. (Previously Presented) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 4, wherein the fixing member comprises a fixing roller, and

wherein the guide member is disposed away by not less than 5 mm downstream along a surface of the fixing roller from a contact portion where the fixing roller

contacts the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream, and is disposed so that one end of the guide member is separated from the first conveyance roller with respect to a line connecting a rotation center of the fixing roller and the other end of the guide member which is facing the fixing roller.

17-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a sheet feeding section configured to feed a sheet; and
an image forming section configured to form an image on the sheet fed by the
sheet feeding section,

wherein the image forming section includes a thermal fixing device
comprising:

a fixing member disposed to be in contact with the sheet;
a pressuring member disposed to face the fixing member and configured to
press the sheet against the fixing member;

a conveying unit configured to convey the sheet that has passed through
between the fixing member and the pressuring member; and

a guide member disposed to face the first conveyance roller and configured to
guide the sheet to the conveyance position;

wherein the conveyance unit comprises:

a first conveyance roller configured to convey the fixation medium, and
configured to be in contact with the fixation medium on a surface that is opposite to a surface
where the fixing roller contacts with at a position that is downstream of the fixing roller with
respect to a conveyance direction of the fixation medium and is upstream of a conveyance
position where the conveyance unit conveys the fixation medium; and

a plurality of second conveyance rollers disposed along the conveyance

direction of the fixation medium, and each disposed to face the first conveyance roller to support and convey the fixation medium; and

wherein the guide member is disposed to face the first conveyance roller, and
a first (downstream) end portion of the guide member is disposed on a line that passes a contact portion between the first conveyance roller and an upstream side second conveyance roller and a second (upstream) end portion of the guide member. ~~The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 17,~~ wherein the pressuring member comprises a plurality of the pressuring members disposed along the conveyance direction of the sheet.

21. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus as claimed in ~~claim 17,~~claim 20, wherein a part of the first conveyance roller is disposed on a line connecting the conveyance position and a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member.

22-25. (Canceled).

26. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus as claimed in ~~claim 17,~~claim 20, wherein a contact portion of the first conveyance roller where the first conveyance roller contacts the sheet is made of elastic material, and

a contact portion of the guide member where the guide member contacts the sheet is made of metal material.

27. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus as claimed in ~~claim 19,~~claim 20, wherein a part of the first conveyance roller is disposed on a line connecting the conveyance position and a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member.

28. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 27, wherein the pressuring member comprises a plurality of the pressuring members disposed along the conveyance direction of the sheet, and

wherein the line connecting the conveyance position and the contact portion corresponds to a line connecting a portion where the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream contacts the fixing member and a portion where the first conveyance roller contacts to the second conveyance roller that is disposed the most upstream.

29. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein the guide member is disposed along a direction of a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member, and

wherein the line that intersects with the tangential line corresponds to a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream.

30. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein the guide member is disposed along a direction of a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member, and

wherein the line that intersects with the tangential line corresponds to a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream.

31. (Original) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein the fixing member comprises a fixing roller, and

wherein the guide member is disposed away by not less than 5 mm downstream along a surface of the fixing roller from a contact portion where the fixing roller contacts the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream, and is disposed along a line connecting a rotation center of the fixing roller and one end of the guide member which is facing the fixing roller.

32. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 20, wherein the fixing member comprises a fixing roller, and

wherein the guide member is disposed away by not less than 5 mm downstream along a surface of the fixing roller from a contact portion where the fixing roller contacts the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream, and is disposed so that one end of the guide member is separated from the first conveyance roller with respect to a line connecting a rotation center of the fixing roller and the other end of the guide member which is facing the fixing roller.

33. (Previously Presented) A thermal fixing device comprising:

a fixing member disposed to be in contact with a fixation medium;

a pressuring member disposed to face the fixing member and configured to press the fixation medium against the fixing member;

a conveying unit configured to convey the fixation medium that has passed through between the fixing member and the pressuring member; and

a guide member disposed configured to guide the fixation medium to the conveyance position;

wherein the conveyance unit comprises;

a first conveyance roller configured to convey the fixation medium, and configured to be in contact with the fixation medium on a surface that is opposite to a surface where the fixing member contacts with at a position that is downstream of the fixing member with respect to a conveyance direction of the fixation medium and is upstream of a conveyance position where the conveyance unit conveys the fixation medium; and

a plurality of second conveyance rollers disposed along the conveyance direction of the fixation medium, and each disposed to face the first conveyance roller to support and convey the fixation medium; and

the guide member is disposed away by not less than 5 mm downstream along a surface of the fixing member from a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member, and is disposed along a line connecting a rotation center of the fixing member and one end of the guide member which is facing the fixing member

34. (Previously Presented) A thermal fixing device comprising:

a fixing member disposed to be in contact with a fixation medium;

a pressuring member disposed to face the fixing member and configured to press the fixation medium against the fixing member;

a conveying unit configured to convey the fixation medium that has passed through between the fixing member and the pressuring member; and

a guide member configured to guide the fixation medium to the conveyance position;

wherein the conveyance unit comprises:

a first conveyance roller configured to convey the fixation medium, and configured to be in contact with the fixation medium on a surface that is opposite to a surface where the fixing member contacts with at a position that is downstream of the fixing member with respect to a conveyance direction of the fixation medium and is upstream of a conveyance position where the conveyance unit conveys the fixation medium; and

a plurality of second conveyance rollers disposed along the conveyance direction of the fixation medium, and each disposed to face the first conveyance roller to support and convey the fixation medium; and

the guide member is disposed away by not less than 5 mm downstream along a surface of the fixing member from a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member, and is disposed so that one end of the guide member is separated from the first conveyance roller with respect to a line connecting a rotation center of the fixing

member and the other end of the guide member which is facing the fixing member.

35. (New) A thermal fixing device comprising:

a fixing member disposed to be in contact with a fixation medium;

a pressuring member disposed to face the fixing member and configured to press the fixation medium against the fixing member;

a conveying unit configured to convey the fixation medium that has passed through between the fixing member and the pressuring member; and

a guide member configured to guide the fixation medium to the conveyance position;

wherein the conveyance unit comprises,

a first conveyance roller configured to convey the fixation medium, and configured to be in contact with the fixation medium on a surface that is opposite to a surface where the fixing roller contacts with at a position that is downstream of the fixing roller with respect to a conveyance direction of the fixation medium and is upstream of a conveyance position where the conveyance unit conveys the fixation medium; and

a plurality of second conveyance rollers disposed along the conveyance direction of the fixation medium, and each disposed to face the first conveyance roller to support and convey the fixation medium; and

wherein the guide member is disposed to face the first conveyance roller, and

a first (downstream) end portion of the guide member is disposed on a line that passes a contact portion between the first conveyance roller and an upstream side second conveyance roller and a second (upstream) end portion of the guide member, and wherein the fixing member comprises a fixing roller, and

wherein the guide member is disposed away by not less than 5 mm downstream along a surface of the fixing roller from a contact portion where the fixing roller

contacts the pressuring member, and is disposed along a line connecting a rotation center of the fixing roller and one end of the guide member which is facing the fixing roller.

36. (New) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 35, wherein the pressuring member comprises a plurality of the pressuring members disposed along the conveyance direction of the fixation medium.

37. (New) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 36, wherein the guide member is disposed along a direction of a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member, and

wherein the line that intersects with the tangential line corresponds to a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream.

38. (New) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 36, wherein the fixing member comprises a fixing roller, and

wherein the guide member is disposed away by not less than 5 mm downstream along a surface of the fixing roller from a contact portion where the fixing roller contacts the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream, and is disposed along a line connecting a rotation center of the fixing roller and one end of the guide member which is facing the fixing roller.

39. (New) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 36, wherein the fixing member comprises a fixing roller, and

wherein the guide member is disposed away by not less than 5 mm downstream along a surface of the fixing roller from a contact portion where the fixing roller contacts the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream, and is disposed so that one end of the guide member is separated from the first conveyance roller with respect to a

line connecting a rotation center of the fixing roller and the other end of the guide member which is facing the fixing roller.

40. (New) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 35, wherein a part of the first conveyance roller is disposed on a line connecting the conveyance position and a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member.

41. (New) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 35, wherein the guide member is disposed along a direction of a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member.

42. (New) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 35, wherein a dynamic friction coefficient of the first conveyance roller at a contact portion where the first conveyance roller contacts the fixation medium is larger than a dynamic friction coefficient of the guide member at a contact portion where the guide member contacts the fixation medium.

43. (New) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 35, wherein a contact portion of the first conveyance roller where the first conveyance roller contacts the fixation medium is made of elastic material, and

a contact portion of the guide member where the guide member contacts the fixation medium is made of metal material.

44. (New) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 35, wherein a part of the first conveyance roller is disposed on a line connecting the conveyance position and a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member.

45. (New) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 44, wherein the pressuring member comprises a plurality of the pressuring members disposed along the conveyance direction of the fixation medium, and

wherein the line connecting the conveyance position and the contact portion corresponds to a line connecting a portion where the pressuring member that is disposed the

most downstream contacts the fixing member and a portion where the first conveyance roller contacts to the second conveyance roller that is disposed the most upstream.

46. (New) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 45, wherein the guide member is disposed along a direction of a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member, and

wherein the line that intersects with the tangential line corresponds to a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream.

47. (New) A thermal fixing device comprising:

a fixing member disposed to be in contact with a fixation medium;

a pressuring member disposed to face the fixing member and configured to press the fixation medium against the fixing member;

a conveying unit configured to convey the fixation medium that has passed through between the fixing member and the pressuring member; and

a guide member configured to guide the fixation medium to the conveyance position;

wherein the conveyance unit comprises,

a first conveyance roller configured to convey the fixation medium, and configured to be in contact with the fixation medium on a surface that is opposite to a surface where the fixing roller contacts with at a position that is downstream of the fixing roller with respect to a conveyance direction of the fixation medium and is upstream of a conveyance position where the conveyance unit conveys the fixation medium; and

a plurality of second conveyance rollers disposed along the conveyance direction of the fixation medium, and each disposed to face the first conveyance roller to support and convey the fixation medium; and

wherein the guide member is disposed to face the first conveyance roller, and

a first (downstream) end portion of the guide member is disposed on a line that passes a contact portion between the first conveyance roller and an upstream side second conveyance roller and a second (upstream) end portion of the guide member, and wherein the fixing member comprises a fixing roller, and

wherein the guide member is disposed away by not less than 5 mm downstream along a surface of the fixing roller from a contact portion where the fixing roller contacts the pressuring member, and is disposed so that one end of the guide member is separated from the first conveyance roller with respect to a line connecting a rotation center of the fixing roller and the other end of the guide member which is facing the fixing roller.

48. (New) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 47, wherein the pressuring member comprises a plurality of the pressuring members disposed along the conveyance direction of the fixation medium.

49. (New) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 48, wherein the guide member is disposed along a direction of a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member, and

wherein the line that intersects with the tangential line corresponds to a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream.

50. (New) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 48, wherein the fixing member comprises a fixing roller, and

wherein the guide member is disposed away by not less than 5 mm downstream along a surface of the fixing roller from a contact portion where the fixing roller contacts the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream, and is disposed along a line connecting a rotation center of the fixing roller and one end of the guide member which is facing the fixing roller.

51. (New) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 48, wherein the fixing member comprises a fixing roller, and

wherein the guide member is disposed away by not less than 5 mm downstream along a surface of the fixing roller from a contact portion where the fixing roller contacts the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream, and is disposed so that one end of the guide member is separated from the first conveyance roller with respect to a line connecting a rotation center of the fixing roller and the other end of the guide member which is facing the fixing roller.

52. (New) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 47, wherein a part of the first conveyance roller is disposed on a line connecting the conveyance position and a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member.

53. (New) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 47, wherein the guide member is disposed along a direction of a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member.

54. (New) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 47, wherein a dynamic friction coefficient of the first conveyance roller at a contact portion where the first conveyance roller contacts the fixation medium is larger than a dynamic friction coefficient of the guide member at a contact portion where the guide member contacts the fixation medium.

55. (New) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 47, wherein a contact portion of the first conveyance roller where the first conveyance roller contacts the fixation medium is made of elastic material, and

a contact portion of the guide member where the guide member contacts the fixation medium is made of metal material.

56. (New) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 47, wherein a part of the first conveyance roller is disposed on a line connecting the conveyance position and a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member.

57. (New) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 56, wherein the pressuring member comprises a plurality of the pressuring members disposed along the conveyance direction of the fixation medium, and

wherein the line connecting the conveyance position and the contact portion corresponds to a line connecting a portion where the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream contacts the fixing member and a portion where the first conveyance roller contacts to the second conveyance roller that is disposed the most upstream.

58. (New) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 57, wherein the guide member is disposed along a direction of a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member, and

wherein the line that intersects with the tangential line corresponds to a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream.

59. (New) A thermal fixing device comprising:

a fixing member disposed to be in contact with a fixation medium;

a pressuring member disposed to face the fixing member and configured to press the fixation medium against the fixing member;

a conveying unit configured to convey the fixation medium that has passed through between the fixing member and the pressuring member; and

a guide member configured to guide the fixation medium to the conveyance position;

wherein the conveyance unit comprises,

a first conveyance roller configured to convey the fixation medium, and configured to be in contact with the fixation medium on a surface that is opposite to a surface where the fixing roller contacts with at a position that is downstream of the fixing roller with respect to a conveyance direction of the fixation medium and is upstream of a conveyance position where the conveyance unit conveys the fixation medium; and

a plurality of second conveyance rollers disposed along the conveyance direction of the fixation medium, and each disposed to face the first conveyance roller to support and convey the fixation medium; and

wherein the guide member is disposed to face the first conveyance roller, and

a first (downstream) end portion of the guide member is disposed on a line that passes a contact portion between the first conveyance roller and an upstream side second conveyance roller and a second (upstream) end portion of the guide member.

60. (New) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 59, wherein the pressuring member comprises a plurality of the pressuring members disposed along the conveyance direction of the fixation medium.

61. (New) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 60, wherein the guide member is disposed along a direction of a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member,

and

wherein the line that intersects with the tangential line corresponds to a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream.

62. (New) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 60, wherein the fixing member comprises a fixing roller, and

wherein the guide member is disposed away by not less than 5 mm downstream along a surface of the fixing roller from a contact portion where the fixing roller contacts the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream, and is disposed along a line connecting a rotation center of the fixing roller and one end of the guide member which is facing the fixing roller.

63. (New) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 60, wherein the fixing member comprises a fixing roller, and

wherein the guide member is disposed away by not less than 5 mm downstream along a surface of the fixing roller from a contact portion where the fixing roller contacts the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream, and is disposed so that one end of the guide member is separated from the first conveyance roller with respect to a line connecting a rotation center of the fixing roller and the other end of the guide member which is facing the fixing roller.

64. (New) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 59, wherein a part of the first conveyance roller is disposed on a line connecting the conveyance position and a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member.

65. (New) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 59, wherein the guide member is disposed along a direction of a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member.

66. (New) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 59, wherein the fixing member comprises a fixing roller, and

wherein the guide member is disposed away by not less than 5 mm downstream along a surface of the fixing roller from a contact portion where the fixing roller contacts the pressuring member, and is disposed along a line connecting a rotation center of the fixing roller and one end of the guide member which is facing the fixing roller.

67. (New) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 59, wherein the fixing member comprises a fixing roller, and

wherein the guide member is disposed away by not less than 5 mm downstream along a surface of the fixing roller from a contact portion where the fixing roller contacts the pressuring member, and is disposed so that one end of the guide member is separated from the first conveyance roller with respect to a line connecting a rotation center of the fixing roller and the other end of the guide member which is facing the fixing roller.

68. (New) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 59, wherein a contact portion of the first conveyance roller where the first conveyance roller contacts the fixation medium is made of elastic material, and

a contact portion of the guide member where the guide member contacts the fixation medium is made of metal material.

69. (New) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 59, wherein a part of the first conveyance roller is disposed on a line connecting the conveyance position and a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member.

70. (New) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 69, wherein the pressuring member comprises a plurality of the pressuring members disposed along the conveyance direction of the fixation medium, and

wherein the line connecting the conveyance position and the contact portion corresponds to a line connecting a portion where the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream contacts the fixing member and a portion where the first conveyance roller contacts to the second conveyance roller that is disposed the most upstream.

71. (New) The thermal fixing device as claimed in claim 70, wherein the guide member is disposed along a direction of a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member, and

wherein the line that intersects with the tangential line corresponds to a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream.

72. (New) A thermal fixing device comprising:

a fixing member disposed to be in contact with a fixation medium;

a pressuring member disposed to face the fixing member and configured to press the fixation medium against the fixing member;

a conveying unit configured to convey the fixation medium that has passed through between the fixing member and the pressuring member; and

a guide member configured to guide the fixation medium to the conveyance position;

wherein the conveyance unit comprises,

a first conveyance roller configured to convey the fixation medium, and configured to be in contact with the fixation medium on a surface that is opposite to a surface where the fixing roller contacts with at a position that is downstream of the fixing roller with respect to a conveyance direction of the fixation medium and is upstream of a conveyance position where the conveyance unit conveys the fixation medium; and

a plurality of second conveyance rollers disposed along the conveyance direction of the fixation medium, and each disposed to face the first conveyance roller to support and convey the fixation medium; and

wherein the guide member is disposed to face the first conveyance roller, and

a first (downstream) end portion of the guide member is disposed on a line that passes a contact portion between the first conveyance roller and an upstream side second conveyance roller and a second (upstream) end portion of the guide member, and wherein a contact portion of the first conveyance roller where the first conveyance roller contacts the fixation medium is made of elastic material, and

a contact portion of the guide member where the guide member contacts the fixation medium is made of metal material.

73. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a sheet feeding section configured to feed a sheet; and

an image forming section configured to form an image on the sheet fed by the sheet feeding section,

wherein the image forming section includes a thermal fixing device comprising:

a fixing member disposed to be in contact with the sheet;

a pressuring member disposed to face the fixing member and configured to press the sheet against the fixing member;

a conveying unit configured to convey the sheet that has passed through between the fixing member and the pressuring member; and

a guide member disposed to face the first conveyance roller and configured to guide the sheet to the conveyance position;

wherein the conveyance unit comprises:

a first conveyance roller configured to convey the fixation medium, and configured to be in contact with the fixation medium on a surface that is opposite to a surface where the fixing roller contacts with at a position that is downstream of the fixing roller with respect to a conveyance direction of the fixation medium and is upstream of a conveyance position where the conveyance unit conveys the fixation medium; and

a plurality of second conveyance rollers disposed along the conveyance direction of the fixation medium, and each disposed to face the first conveyance roller to support and convey the fixation medium; and

wherein the guide member is disposed to face the first conveyance roller, and

a first (downstream) end portion of the guide member is disposed on a line that passes a contact portion between the first conveyance roller and an upstream side second conveyance roller and a second (upstream) end portion of the guide member, wherein the fixing member comprises a fixing roller, and

wherein the guide member is disposed away by not less than 5 mm downstream along a surface of the fixing roller from a contact portion where the fixing roller contacts the pressuring member, and is disposed along a line connecting a rotation center of the fixing roller and one end of the guide member which is facing the fixing roller.

74. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 73, wherein the pressuring member comprises a plurality of the pressuring members disposed along the conveyance direction of the sheet.

75. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 74, wherein the guide member is disposed along a direction of a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member, and

wherein the line that intersects with the tangential line corresponds to a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream.

76. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 74, wherein the fixing member comprises a fixing roller, and

wherein the guide member is disposed away by not less than 5 mm downstream along a surface of the fixing roller from a contact portion where the fixing roller contacts the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream, and is disposed along a line connecting a rotation center of the fixing roller and one end of the guide member which is facing the fixing roller.

77. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 74, wherein the fixing member comprises a fixing roller, and

wherein the guide member is disposed away by not less than 5 mm downstream along a surface of the fixing roller from a contact portion where the fixing roller contacts the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream, and is disposed so that one end of the guide member is separated from the first conveyance roller with respect to a line connecting a rotation center of the fixing roller and the other end of the guide member which is facing the fixing roller.

78. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 73, wherein a part of the first conveyance roller is disposed on a line connecting the conveyance position and a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member.

79. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 73, wherein the guide member is disposed along a direction of a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member.

80. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 73, wherein a dynamic friction coefficient of the first conveyance roller at a contact portion where the first conveyance roller contacts the sheet is larger than a dynamic friction coefficient of the guide member at a contact portion where the guide member contacts the sheet.

81. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 73, wherein a contact portion of the first conveyance roller where the first conveyance roller contacts the sheet is made of elastic material, and

a contact portion of the guide member where the guide member contacts the sheet is made of metal material.

82. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 73, wherein a part of the first conveyance roller is disposed on a line connecting the conveyance position and a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member.

83. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 82, wherein the pressuring member comprises a plurality of the pressuring members disposed along the conveyance direction of the sheet, and

wherein the line connecting the conveyance position and the contact portion corresponds to a line connecting a portion where the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream contacts the fixing member and a portion where the first conveyance roller contacts to the second conveyance roller that is disposed the most upstream.

84. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 83, wherein the guide member is disposed along a direction of a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member, and

wherein the line that intersects with the tangential line corresponds to a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream.

85. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a sheet feeding section configured to feed a sheet; and

an image forming section configured to form an image on the sheet fed by the sheet feeding section,

wherein the image forming section includes a thermal fixing device comprising:

a fixing member disposed to be in contact with the sheet;

a pressuring member disposed to face the fixing member and configured to press the sheet against the fixing member;

a conveying unit configured to convey the sheet that has passed through between the fixing member and the pressuring member; and

a guide member disposed to face the first conveyance roller and configured to guide the sheet to the conveyance position;

wherein the conveyance unit comprises:

a first conveyance roller configured to convey the fixation medium, and configured to be in contact with the fixation medium on a surface that is opposite to a surface where the fixing roller contacts with at a position that is downstream of the fixing roller with respect to a conveyance direction of the fixation medium and is upstream of a conveyance position where the conveyance unit conveys the fixation medium; and

a plurality of second conveyance rollers disposed along the conveyance direction of the fixation medium, and each disposed to face the first conveyance roller to support and convey the fixation medium; and

wherein the guide member is disposed to face the first conveyance roller, and
a first (downstream) end portion of the guide member is disposed on a line that passes a contact portion between the first conveyance roller and an upstream side second conveyance roller and a second (upstream) end portion of the guide member, wherein the fixing member comprises a fixing roller, and

wherein the guide member is disposed away by not less than 5 mm downstream along a surface of the fixing roller from a contact portion where the fixing roller contacts the pressuring member, and is disposed so that one end of the guide member is separated from the first conveyance roller with respect to a line connecting a rotation center of the fixing roller and the other end of the guide member which is facing the fixing roller.

86. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 85, wherein the fixing member comprises a fixing roller, and

wherein the guide member is disposed away by not less than 5 mm downstream along a surface of the fixing roller from a contact portion where the fixing roller contacts the pressuring member, and is disposed so that one end of the guide member is separated from the first conveyance roller with respect to a line connecting a rotation center of the fixing roller and the other end of the guide member which is facing the fixing roller.

87. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 86, wherein the guide member is disposed along a direction of a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member, and

wherein the line that intersects with the tangential line corresponds to a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream.

88. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 86, wherein the fixing member comprises a fixing roller, and

wherein the guide member is disposed away by not less than 5 mm downstream along a surface of the fixing roller from a contact portion where the fixing roller contacts the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream, and is disposed along a line connecting a rotation center of the fixing roller and one end of the guide member which is facing the fixing roller.

89. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 86, wherein the fixing member comprises a fixing roller, and

wherein the guide member is disposed away by not less than 5 mm downstream along a surface of the fixing roller from a contact portion where the fixing roller contacts the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream, and is disposed so that one end of the guide member is separated from the first conveyance roller with respect to a line connecting a rotation center of the fixing roller and the other end of the guide member which is facing the fixing roller.

90. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 85, wherein a part of the first conveyance roller is disposed on a line connecting the conveyance position and a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member.

91. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 85, wherein the guide member is disposed along a direction of a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member.

92. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 85, wherein a dynamic friction coefficient of the first conveyance roller at a contact portion where the first conveyance roller contacts the sheet is larger than a dynamic friction coefficient of the guide member at a contact portion where the guide member contacts the sheet.

93. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 85, wherein a contact portion of the first conveyance roller where the first conveyance roller contacts the sheet is made of elastic material, and

a contact portion of the guide member where the guide member contacts the sheet is made of metal material.

94. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 85, wherein a part of the first conveyance roller is disposed on a line connecting the conveyance position and a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member.

95. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 94, wherein the pressuring member comprises a plurality of the pressuring members disposed along the conveyance direction of the sheet, and

wherein the line connecting the conveyance position and the contact portion corresponds to a line connecting a portion where the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream contacts the fixing member and a portion where the first conveyance roller contacts to the second conveyance roller that is disposed the most upstream.

96. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 95, wherein the guide member is disposed along a direction of a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member, and

wherein the line that intersects with the tangential line corresponds to a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream.

97. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a sheet feeding section configured to feed a sheet; and

an image forming section configured to form an image on the sheet fed by the sheet feeding section,

wherein the image forming section includes a thermal fixing device comprising:

a fixing member disposed to be in contact with the sheet;

a pressuring member disposed to face the fixing member and configured to press the sheet against the fixing member;

a conveying unit configured to convey the sheet that has passed through between the fixing member and the pressuring member; and

a guide member disposed to face the first conveyance roller and configured to guide the sheet to the conveyance position;

wherein the conveyance unit comprises:

a first conveyance roller configured to convey the fixation medium, and configured to be in contact with the fixation medium on a surface that is opposite to a surface where the fixing roller contacts with at a position that is downstream of the fixing roller with respect to a conveyance direction of the fixation medium and is upstream of a conveyance position where the conveyance unit conveys the fixation medium; and

a plurality of second conveyance rollers disposed along the conveyance direction of the fixation medium, and each disposed to face the first conveyance roller to support and convey the fixation medium; and

wherein the guide member is disposed to face the first conveyance roller, and
a first (downstream) end portion of the guide member is disposed on a line that passes a contact portion between the first conveyance roller and an upstream side second conveyance roller and a second (upstream) end portion of the guide member, wherein a dynamic friction coefficient of the first conveyance roller at a contact portion where the first conveyance roller contacts the sheet is larger than a dynamic friction coefficient of the guide member at a contact portion where the guide member contacts the sheet.

98. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 97, wherein the pressuring member comprises a plurality of the pressuring members disposed along the conveyance direction of the sheet.

99. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 98, wherein the guide member is disposed along a direction of a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member, and

wherein the line that intersects with the tangential line corresponds to a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream.

100. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 98, wherein the fixing member comprises a fixing roller, and

wherein the guide member is disposed away by not less than 5 mm downstream along a surface of the fixing roller from a contact portion where the fixing roller contacts the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream, and is disposed along a line connecting a rotation center of the fixing roller and one end of the guide member which is facing the fixing roller.

101. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 98, wherein the fixing member comprises a fixing roller, and

wherein the guide member is disposed away by not less than 5 mm downstream along a surface of the fixing roller from a contact portion where the fixing roller contacts the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream, and is disposed so that one end of the guide member is separated from the first conveyance roller with respect to a line connecting a rotation center of the fixing roller and the other end of the guide member which is facing the fixing roller.

102. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 97, wherein a part of the first conveyance roller is disposed on a line connecting the conveyance position and a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member.

103. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 97, wherein the guide member is disposed along a direction of a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member.

104. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 97, wherein the fixing member comprises a fixing roller, and

wherein the guide member is disposed away by not less than 5 mm downstream along a surface of the fixing roller from a contact portion where the fixing roller contacts the pressuring member, and is disposed along a line connecting a rotation center of the fixing roller and one end of the guide member which is facing the fixing roller.

105. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 97, wherein the fixing member comprises a fixing roller, and

wherein the guide member is disposed away by not less than 5 mm downstream along a surface of the fixing roller from a contact portion where the fixing roller

contacts the pressuring member, and is disposed so that one end of the guide member is separated from the first conveyance roller with respect to a line connecting a rotation center of the fixing roller and the other end of the guide member which is facing the fixing roller.

106. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 97, wherein a contact portion of the first conveyance roller where the first conveyance roller contacts the sheet is made of elastic material, and

a contact portion of the guide member where the guide member contacts the sheet is made of metal material.

107. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 97, wherein a part of the first conveyance roller is disposed on a line connecting the conveyance position and a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member.

108. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 107, wherein the pressuring member comprises a plurality of the pressuring members disposed along the conveyance direction of the sheet, and

wherein the line connecting the conveyance position and the contact portion corresponds to a line connecting a portion where the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream contacts the fixing member and a portion where the first conveyance roller contacts to the second conveyance roller that is disposed the most upstream.

109. (New) The image forming apparatus as claimed in claim 108, wherein the guide member is disposed along a direction of a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a contact portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member, and

wherein the line that intersects with the tangential line corresponds to a line that intersects with a tangential line of the fixing member at a portion where the fixing member contacts the pressuring member that is disposed the most downstream.

110. (New) An image forming apparatus comprising:
- a sheet feeding section configured to feed a sheet; and
 - an image forming section configured to form an image on the sheet fed by the sheet feeding section,
- wherein the image forming section includes a thermal fixing device comprising:
- a fixing member disposed to be in contact with the sheet;
 - a pressuring member disposed to face the fixing member and configured to press the sheet against the fixing member;
 - a conveying unit configured to convey the sheet that has passed through between the fixing member and the pressuring member; and
 - a guide member disposed to face the first conveyance roller and configured to guide the sheet to the conveyance position;
- wherein the conveyance unit comprises:
- a first conveyance roller configured to convey the fixation medium, and configured to be in contact with the fixation medium on a surface that is opposite to a surface where the fixing roller contacts with at a position that is downstream of the fixing roller with respect to a conveyance direction of the fixation medium and is upstream of a conveyance position where the conveyance unit conveys the fixation medium; and
 - a plurality of second conveyance rollers disposed along the conveyance direction of the fixation medium, and each disposed to face the first conveyance roller to support and convey the fixation medium; and
- wherein the guide member is disposed to face the first conveyance roller, and
- a first (downstream) end portion of the guide member is disposed on a line that passes a contact portion between the first conveyance roller and an upstream side second

conveyance roller and a second (upstream) end portion of the guide member, wherein a contact portion of the first conveyance roller where the first conveyance roller contacts the sheet is made of elastic material, and

a contact portion of the guide member where the guide member contacts the sheet is made of metal material.